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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN
CINCUSAFE
EUCOM

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: ECEVIT'S KONYA RALLY

REF: ANKARA 4886, 5111; ISTANBUL 2070 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN ECEVIT AT PARTY RALLY IN KONYA JULY 5 ATTACKED THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT FOR ITS FAILURES IN DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY AND ITS HANDLING OF THE ECONOMY. PRIMIN DEMIREL AND DEPUTY PRIMIN ERBAKAN WILL SPEAK AT RALLIES IN ADAPAZARI JULY 12. END SUMMARY.

1. IN KONYA, THE SUPPOSED STRONGHOLD OF HIS RELIGIOUS TRADITIONALIST POLITICAL RIVALS, RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT HELD A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUCCESSFUL RALLY JULY 5. PRESS REPORTS PUT ATTENDANCE AT

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AROUND 60,000. THE BASIC POINTS ECEVIT MADE WERE:

A. DOMESTIC SECURITY: "IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT A DEMIREL GOVERNMENT MEANS THE DISRUPTION OF DOMESTIC SUCURITY, THE MURDER OF CITIZENS FOR POLITICAL REASONS AND DISTRUBANCES REACHING DANGEROUS LEVELS. MR. DEMIREL CANNOT SAY THIS IS HOW HE FOUND TURKEY."

B. EXTERNAL SECURITY: "THE EXTERNAL SECURITY CRISIS BEGAN WITH THE PROLONGATION OF THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS AND INTENSIFIED IN THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT'S TIME...MR. DEMIREL CAUSED A SIX-MONTH GOVERNMENT CRISIS AND IN THE END FORMED A GOVERNMENT WHICH COULD NOT TAKE A STEP IN FOREIGN POLICY OR SECURITY." ECEVIT ALSO CRITICIZED DEMIREL FOR NOT HAVING CLARIFIED HIS STAND ON CYPRUS AND ON HOW TURKEY WOULD ENSURE ITS SECURITY IF THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO WERE NOT LIFTED.

C. THE ECONOMY: ECEVIT ACCUSED DEMIREL OF DOING NOTHING TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMY. HE CITED THE INCREASING FOREIGN TRADE GAP, THE DECREASE IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES, THE LACK OF NEW CONSTRUCTION AND INVESTMENT, AND THE INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT. "THE TURKISH ECONOMY CAN STAND THIS CRISIS UNTIL THE SENATE ELECTION OR THE SUMMER OF 1976 AT THE LATEST," HE SAID, BUT "AFTERWARDS IT LOOKS VERY BLACK."

2. THE KONYA RALLY WAS THE LAST IN THE PRESENT SERIES HELD BY ECEVIT AND WENT OFF WITHOUT ANY VIOLENT INCIDENTS. THE RALLIES SEEM TO HAVE RECAPTURED FOR ECEVIT SOME OF THE POPULARITY AND CHARISMA THAT HAD WANED IN RECENT MONTHS AND PERHAPS HAVE HELPED COMPENSATE FOR THE RPP'S LACK OF SUCCESS IN CHALLENGING THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT.

3. PRIMIN DEMIREL WILL SPEAK AT A RALLY JULY 12 IN ADAPAZARI IN CONNECTION WITH A MAYORAL ELECTION. NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) CHAIRMAN (AND DEPUTY PRIMIN) ERBAKAN, WHO HAS RECENTLY STAGED A SERIES OF RALLIES IN THE SOUTHEAST BLACK SEA PROVINCES AND KONYA, REPORTEDLY WILL ALSO HOLD A RALLY IN ADAPAZARI ON JULY 12.
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